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## **Composting a smart alternative to incineration**

**LANSING** – Farmers and other animal product producers will have another way to properly dispose of waste and livestock mortalities under legislation passed today in the Senate, said Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

Senate Bill 2 would amend the Bodies of Dead Animals Act to expand and define terms related to the disposal process to make composting dead animals a more attractive disposal process.

“Unfortunately animals die while in the care of farmers and other animal owners and disposing of the bodies in an acceptable manner is an important concern,” said Jelinek, sponsor of the bill. “This bill would make it easier for them to dispose of the animals in a way that is environmentally friendly. It promotes organic composting instead of incineration, which currently generates a lot of pollution.”

Composting is a better alternative to incineration from an environmental and economical standpoint. It is a natural process that occurs by the decomposition of organic materials. Bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms decompose the organic materials into a mixture called compost while consuming oxygen and releasing heat, water and carbon dioxide used in the process.

The resulting compost can then be used as fertilizer either for the farmers own use or for resale to other farmers or homeowners for gardening.

“Composting is an economically common sense approach due to the high costs associated with incineration,” Jelinek said. “Besides saving money on the process, farmers also can make additional money selling the fertilizer.”

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